

Amendments

In accordance with 37 CFR §1.121, please amend the above-identified application as set forth below.

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 5, line 20 and continuing to page 6, line 5 with the following:

-- Figs. 1-7 illustrate a gun rest 10 supported by a shaft 12. The shaft 12 may be of any length. The diameter of the shaft 12 is limited only by the inside diameter of the collar ~~[[18]]~~ 20 (discussed in more detail below). Advantageously, the shaft 12 may be a walking stick that the user already possesses or may be a tree limb of suitable length and thickness that is readily found in the field. Alternatives for the shaft 12, also include wood, metal, plastic or fiberglass poles, although a relatively narrow, elongated item made of any suitably rigid material will suffice. Due to the gun rest's ability to be utilized with shafts 12 of any length, almost any shooting position can be accommodated, including sitting, kneeling, and standing, regardless of the height or age of the user. Figs. 1, 6 and 7 illustrate a gun rest 10 in use by a shooter in kneeling, standing and prone positions, respectively. While the shaft shown in these figures is truncated for space purposes, it should be noted that the very same shaft could be used in all three shooting positions, which presents a significant advantage for the gun rest 10. --

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 7, line 24 and continuing to page 8, line 3 with the following:

-- In an alternate embodiment, the ends of the upper 28 and lower 30 support arms are provided with concave clamping surfaces ~~[[46]]~~ 40 in order to increase the actual contact area between the rounded side of the shaft 12 and the support arms, thereby providing a more secure clamping action between the support and the shaft. In addition, the clamping surfaces ~~[[46]]~~ 40 may be provided with flexible pads 41, such as rubber, plastic, neoprene, leather, or the like, to minimize any marring of the shaft surface. This is particularly desirable if a user utilizes a favorite walking stick as the shaft 12. --

Please replace the paragraph starting at page 8, line 4 and continuing to page 8, line 14 with the following:

-- In a preferred embodiment, the support 14 is provided with a contoured surface 38 forming a concave cradle to positively support a firearm or a user's hand. In a particularly preferred embodiment, at least the contoured surface 38 is covered with a flexible material ~~[[40]]~~ 24, such as cloth, low density plastic, neoprene, rubber, or leather. This covering prevents the support 14 from scratching firearms and also reduces any noise made by the gun rest 10 if it is dropped, which is essential when hunting. In addition, if the flexible material ~~[[40]]~~ 24 used is of a non-skid design, such as neoprene or rubber, for example, slippage of firearms during firing is minimized. This covering may be extended to cover the entire support 14. The support 14 and/or flexible material covering ~~[[40]]~~ 24 may also be provided with a suitable coloring, i.e., camouflage print, to allow the gun rest 10 to better blend in with a user's other hunting gear and clothing. --

Amendments to the Claims: The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A firearm supporting apparatus suitable for use with shafts of varying diameters and lengths, including:

an elongated support member having an end surface and a top surface, wherein said end surface further comprises a clamping surface and said top surface further comprises a firearm supporting surface and said clamping surface and said firearm supporting surface are integral with the elongated support member;

a collar connected with the elongated support member; and

an adjustable mechanism connecting the collar with the elongated support member and adjusting the position of the collar relative to the clamping surface of the support member, resulting in movement of the collar relative to the clamping surface in a direction parallel to the elongated support member, the collar and clamping surface securing the support member to the shaft.

2. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the adjustable mechanism includes an elongated threaded member connected with the collar and the elongated support member and a fastening device associated with the threaded member, wherein tightening and loosening the fastening device on the threaded member adjusts the position of the collar relative to the clamping surface.

3. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the adjustable mechanism includes an adjustable clamp connected with the elongated support member and wherein the collar is a flexible band associated with the adjustable clamp.

4. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the firearm supporting surface is contoured.

5. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 4, wherein the firearm supporting surface is a concave cradle.

6. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein the clamping surface includes upper and lower support arms and wherein the support member defines a collar slot separating said upper and lower support arms.

7. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 3, wherein the support member defines a transverse hole and wherein the adjustable clamp is inserted into the transverse hole.

8. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further including a flexible material covering a portion of the elongated support member.

9. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein at least the firearm supporting surface is covered by a flexible material.

10. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 9, wherein the flexible material is provided with a non-skid surface.

11. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the clamping surface is concave.

12. (Original) The firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, wherein the clamping surface is covered by a flexible material.

13. (Original) A firearm supporting apparatus as set forth in claim 1, further including a set of collars of varying diameters and wherein the collar is selected from the set based on a diameter of the shaft.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)